

REMARKS

Each of Claims 6 and 19 has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claims 1-10 and 19 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 11-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,515,125 in view of Oertel (page 90). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 11-22 of Slack et al are directed to a storage-stable, liquid prepolymer produced from the partial trimerization product of from 20-88% TDI having a specified isomer distribution and 12-80% MDI having a specified isomer distribution.

Slack et al does not teach or suggest a partial trimerization product which is formed in the presence of a hydroxyl group-containing compound as is required in Applicants' presently claimed invention. Rather, Slack et al forms the partial trimerization product **before** the hydroxyl group-containing compound is introduced into the prepolymer-forming mixture.

Oertel does not contain any teaching which would lead one skilled in the art to include a hydroxyl group-containing compound in a mixture being trimerized.

Since neither Slack et al nor Oertel teach a partial trimerization product formed in the presence of a hydroxyl compound as required in Applicants' present invention, the teachings of Slack et al and Oertel can not be combined in any manner which would lead one skilled in the art to Applicants' presently claimed invention in which a hydroxyl group-containing material must be included in the trimerization mixture.

Applicants' claimed invention is therefore patentably distinct from the invention claimed in Claims 11-22 of U.S. Patent 6,515,125 in view of Oertel.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

Claims 1-10 and 19 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a or e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Slack et al (U.S. Patent 6,515,125) in view of Oertel (page 90). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

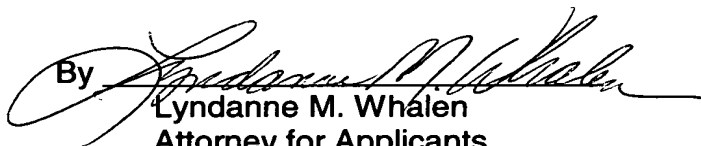
As discussed above in response to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, neither Slack et al nor Oertel teaches or suggests inclusion of a hydroxyl group-containing compound in the isocyanate mixture before partial trimerization as required in Applicants' presently claimed invention.

The teachings of Slack et al and Oertel do not therefore anticipate or render obvious Applicants' presently claimed invention.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore requested.

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-10 and 19 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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